

EXCISE

Action
NEA

Control: 3585
Rec'd: August 7, 1955
1:44 p.m.

Info ~
RMR

FROM: Jidds
TO: Secretary of State

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NO: 57, August 7, 4 p.m. (SECTION ONE OF TWO)

PRIORITY

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My telegram 39, July 25 and Department telegram 56, July 29.

(1) His Majesty was in high good humor at dinner last evening. Pilgrimage had been largest on record, over 700,000 attending, one-third from overseas. Morning's annual military review had been eminent success.

I had arranged present Admiral Dudley new COMIDEASTFOR at review, which brought Royal summons bring him with General Schlatter and MAAG officers for dinner. King expressed high satisfaction training mission work but added concern lest equipment needed for army program not be supplied "by our friends." He had Charge Yusuf Yasin discuss this matter with me.

Two nights earlier Yasin after telling me of British memorandum re Oman dispute (London Embassy telegram 435, August 4) had made special point of complaining that British had refused sell SAG 18 jet aircraft "because, they said, these jets were needed for their friends, Iraq and Pakistan." He added he hoped we would not take same position re tanks (Embassy telegram 536, May 22).

(2) Conversation then turned to King's forthcoming visit Tehran. I suggested one of his officers might be interested see something of our training mission work there and, having reference telegrams in mind, voiced hope Ambassador Chapin might have opportunity talk with his Majesty.

King welcomed both suggestions. He will leave July 9 in three Convairs with suite of circa 100, including Royal Princes, counselors, bodyguard and radio communication unit.

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-2-57, August 7, 4 p.m. (SECTION ONE OF TWO' from Jidde

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(3) Over after dinner coffee King spoke of El Kharj Farm. Things were not going well. He hoped Rogers (see last page enclosure your despatch 8, July 18) could return or other expert our Department Agriculture be engaged.

In reply I recalled His Majesty had also spoken in this sense with Davies of Aramco just before his recent departure for US (my telegram 17, July 15) I would ask Department discuss matter with him and find suitable man. King concurred. We took leave.

AUG 1 1957

WADSWORTH

JAK-15

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INCOMING TELEGRAM

Department of State

ACTION COPY

19-D

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Action:
NEAControl: 3584
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1:25 p.m.Info
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FROM: Jidda

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NO: 57, August 7, 4 p.m. (SECTION TWO OF TWO)

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(4) Conversation was cordial throughout but I sensed King had been very recently needled on army equipment question by Yasin and Defense Minister Prince Mishaal.

Latter only two days earlier at monthly meeting with General Schlatter re MAAG affairs had complained of high cost and slow delivery US equipment, adding, Saudi Arabia will build modern army regardless of obstacles even to extent as Churchill said "of making allies with the devil." At another point, referring to US Government delay in answering specific procurement request, he said Saudi Arabia would get tanks even if it had to get them from devil.

[REDACTED] Other countries, he said in another place, would be surprised to know Saudi Arabia was paying for US Government equipment.

(5) I beg Department's indulgence for length and multiplicity subjects this telegram. My reason is desire highlight atmosphere and circumstances King Saud's confidences [REDACTED]. As he may expect that Ambassador Chapin will be informed thereof, I should appreciate Department repeating texts or wiring substance this and earlier reference telegrams to Tehran.

(6) After drafting foregoing I presented Admiral Dudley to Prince Mishaal this morning. Prince touched but less pugnaciously on subjects his complaints to General Schlatter.

[REDACTED] Copy prepared & sent to D.C./T - Wadsworth

JAK 15

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